

Application No.: 10/517,813Docket No.: 4444-049**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to obviate the objections to them and to define applicants contribution to the art with greater particularity.

Claim 33, upon which the remaining claims depend, obviates the anticipation rejection of claim 33 under 35 USC 102(b) based on Call (USP 6,154,738).

The methods and apparatus disclosed by Call require members of a first body of actors (e.g., "participating manufacturers and suppliers," col. 4, lines 323-34) to register IP addresses with a DNS registration authority; see "registration handler 203...operated by a central registration authority," at col. 5, lines 59-62. Call specifically states "the DNS server...responds with a corresponding IP address (assuming that company has registered the IP address for that company code with a DNS registration authority)". This operation is performed to allow members of a second body of actors (e.g., "resellers, prospective buyers," col. 4, line 37) to retrieve information stored at the IP addresses.

Call does not allow members of the second body to modify the data. The system of claim 33, as amended, allows such a modification to be performed since the stated communication arrangement included in amended claim 33 is able to receive a *modification* request transmitted by the *terminal*.

Furthermore, since the controller of claim 33 is able to determine a domain name and perform an operation on a given record on the basis of this *modification* request, the claimed protocol manager is able to find the relevant IP address to enable a request to update the record to be sent to the server that stores the first database. The system of claim 33 allows records to be modified without requiring any further registration or authentication procedure with a DNS authority, thus allowing a subscriber to simply and rapidly update his resource records.

Based on the foregoing, claim 33 is allowable, as are the claims dependent thereon. The secondary references, Reed, USP 5,862,325 (applied against claims 44-50),

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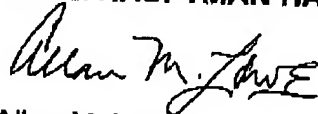
Skarpelos, USP 5,590,274 (applied against claims 48-50) and/or the Faltstrom publication (applied against claims 61-63) fail to cure the deficiencies of the Call reference.

Allowance is in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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